

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (currently amended): A computer based system which enables a party and counterparty to be efficiently matched, comprising:

a first computer terminal into which the party inputs details of a potential first financial transaction to buy an amount of a first currency using a second currency,

a second computer terminal into which the counterparty inputs details of a potential second financial transaction to sell an amount of that first currency and to receive the second currency or another currency,

a computer network connecting the first and second terminals;

characterised in there being:

(a) a computer program that allocates to each currency a unique identifier such that each possible combination of currencies to be bought and sold by parties and counterparties is uniquely identifiable by a combination identifier that is a single binary number derived from the unique identifiers of each currency [[on]] of the combination; and

(b) a computer program arranged to determine, prior to the first and second transactions occurring, a net payment position if either the first and second transactions were to occur only in part and to complete each transaction on the basis of the net payment position.

Claim 18 (original): The computer based system as claimed in Claim 1 wherein there are several party/counterparty pairs in a connected series of financial transactions such that only by combining all of the connected transactions are all of the parties and counterparties satisfied in whole or part.

Claim 19 (original): A computer based system as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the Internet comprises some of the network connecting the first and second terminals.

Claim 20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (original): The computer based system as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the program is designed to identify and complete transactions in first in – first out (FIFO) order limited only by a set of user defined parameters and transaction system rules.

Claim 22 (cancelled).

Claim 23 (previously presented): The computer based system of Claim 17 in which each unique identifier is an assignment value number in the form 10^N , with N being different for each currency.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The computer based system of Claim 23 in which the assignment value combination identifier for a given combination of currencies is calculated by adding the unique identifiers for each currency in that combination.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The computer based system of Claim 17 in which a match between a combination of currencies to be bought and a combination of currencies to be sold is identified by a program able to calculate combination identifiers for all possible combinations to be bought and to be sold and to identify a match where a combination identifier for a combination to be sold equals a combination identifier for a combination to be bought.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The computer based system of Claim 25 in which the amount of currency available for matching in any given combination is determined by a calculation which involves converting the currencies in that combination to a base currency.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A method of completing a foreign exchange transaction for a party, comprising the steps of:

- (a) the party defining a foreign exchange requirement, relating to buying an amount of a first currency using a second currency ~~the sale or disposal of different kinds of currencies~~ using a web browser;
- (b) sending the requirement via the Internet to a server; and
- (c) processing that requirement by identifying one or more matching counterparties wishing to sell an amount of that first currency and to receive the second currency or another currency using (i) a computer program that allocates to each of the

different kinds of currencies a unique identifier such that each possible combination of kinds of foreign exchange to be bought and sold is uniquely identifiable by a combination identifier derived from the unique identifiers and (ii) a computer program arranged to determine prior to the transaction occurring a net payment position between the party and the or each counterparty if either the first and second transactions were to occur only in part and to subsequently complete the transaction between the party and the or each counterparty on the basis of the net payment position.

Claim 28 (original): The method of completing a foreign exchange transaction as claimed in Claim 27 in which a computer based system as claimed in Claim is used.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A server programmed to process a foreign exchange transaction between a party and a counterparty, the transaction relating to different kinds of currencies, in which the server is programmed to (a) allocate to each of the different kinds of currency a unique identifier such that each possible combination of currencies to be bought and sold by parties and counterparties is uniquely identifiable by a combination identifier derived from the unique identifiers and (b) to determine, prior to the transaction occurring, a net payment position between the party and a counterparty if the transaction were to occur only in part and to complete the transaction between the party and the counterparty on the basis of the net payment position.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The server of Claim 29 forming part of a computer based system.

Claim 31 (original): A computer terminal acting as a client, in which the client accepts from a party a foreign exchange requirement and sends that requirement to a server as defined in Claim 30.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A method of obtaining foreign exchange comprising the following steps:

(a) a party wishing to buy an amount of a first currency using a second currency requiring foreign exchange defines that a foreign exchange requirement using a web browser, ~~ch requirement defining one kind of currency to be bought and another to be sold;~~

(b) a counterparty wishing to sell an amount of that first currency and to receive the second currency or another currency defines that a foreign exchange requirement using a web browser.

(([b]) c) the party sends the requirement via the Internet to a remote computer which processes or enables the processing of that requirement using a computer program arranged to (i) allocate to each of the different kinds of currencies ~~foreign-exchange~~ a unique identifier such that each possible combination of kinds of currency ~~foreign-exchange~~ to be bought and sold is uniquely identifiable by a combination identifier derived from the unique identifiers and (ii) to determine, prior to the foreign exchange occurring a net payment position if either the first and second transactions were to occur only in part ~~between the party and a counterparty~~ and subsequently to complete the foreign exchange transaction between the party and the counterparty on the basis of the net payment position; and

(([c])d) the party receives foreign exchange in satisfaction of its requirement.